

## RETURN

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LONDON, December 5, 1911.

Hon. R. L. BORDEN,  
Prime Minister,  
Ottawa.

Postmaster General has just communicated to me the gratifying announcement as follows (begins): A strong desire was expressed by Dominion representatives at Imperial Conference for cheaper transmission of press cablegrams between various portions of the Empire. With this desire His Majesty's Government are in cordial sympathy regarding easy communication of information of common interest as of prime importance in strengthening cohesion of Empire. I have been in correspondence with Western Union Telegraph Company of United States in connection with leasing by that company of cables of Anglo-American Telegraph Company and of direct United States Company the cables of Atlantic companies are fully employed during few hours of day but less fully during remaining hours. I am glad to be able announce that in view of this fact the three companies referred to have consented accept press messages which are not of urgent character and which may be postponed to more urgent traffic at one-half of present rates for the present. Deferment may be less but will not be more than nineteen hours reckoned from clock time of acceptance in country of origin to clock time of delivery in country of destination, except that of (if?) cables congested some further delay may be unavoidable. I have also obtained consent Pacific Cable Board and of Australian Government to similar reduction their charges for press messages. This class tariff New Zealand Government already very low and further diminution not asked. Effect will be that rates these deferred press telegrams between United Kingdom on one hand and Canada as well as United States on other, will be two pence half-penny word instead of five pence, as now, and between United Kingdom and Australia and New Zealand rate will be four pence half-penny word instead of nine pence. I am in communication with Commercial Cable Company also on this question. I regret have not yet been able to arrange for similar reduction in cablegrams to and from India and South Africa, but Eastern Telegraph Company has consented carry Australasian cablegrams at reduced rate in event of interruption to Pacific Cable. Service will come into full operation on fifteen instant, but Western Union, Anglo-American and direct United States Companies will be prepared accept press telegrams at reduced rates at their own offices on and from to-morrow. Western Union Company proposes also of its own initiative to establish at once for use of public, system of so called night letters and week end letters between this country and places in Canada and United States. These will be plain language cablegrams carried at largely reduced rates night letter will be delivered on morning of second day after they are handed in. Charge per word will be rather more than quarter usual rate with minimum of six shillings for 20 words or less. Week end letters will be accepted on or before Saturdays for delivery following Tuesdays. Charge per word will be about one-fifth present rate with minimum of six shillings for 20 words or less. On and from 15th instant postoffice will receive these messages and co-operate in forwarding them by post or telegraph according to rules which will be

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announced for present press telegrams at reduced rates and the new letter telegrams will be sent by cables of Western Union Company and the two and allied companies already mentioned so far as North America is concerned can only be sent to places on Western Union Company system. I am glad say also that negotiations which have been proceeding for some time with cable companies for reducing by one-half rates for plain language non-urgent cablegrams between United Kingdom, India, the Dominions, the Crown Colonies and the United States have proved successful and the new arrangements will take effect on 1st January next. I anticipate that concurrence of certain foreign Administrations will soon be obtained and that the scheme will shortly be extended to many other parts of the world. Under new regulations of Telegraph Convention use of codes has been largely extended and code telegrams can be sent cheaply. I hope that new tariffs will be of service to senders of press and private messages in plain language which are not of urgent character with respect to which existing rates press heavily (ends).

STRATHCONA.